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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. ROH-051

#8/9
5-27-03
Payton

In the U.S. Nationalization
Application of PCT/JP00/06035

Kazutaka SHIBATA

Serial No. to be assigned

Group Art Unit: unassigned

Filed: Concurrently herewith

Examiner: unassigned

Title: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to the initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite claims 6-10 as set forth below in clean form. Additionally, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii), amended claims are set forth in a marked-up version in the pages attached to this Amendment.

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--6. (Amended) A semiconductor device as set forth in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the contact region has a generally C-shape or a ring shape which surrounds the second conductivity type semiconductor region on the surface of the first conductivity type semiconductor region.

7. (Amended) A semiconductor device as set forth in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the diode is provided at least in a part of the boundary portion of the contact region facing the second conductivity type semiconductor region.

8. (Amended) A semiconductor device as set forth in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the diode is provided in the entire boundary portion of the contact region.